



NEWS RELEASE

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HOONAH MAN RECIEVES MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF 10 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR FIREARMS VIOLATION; COMPANION SENTENCED TO 33 MONTHS

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced today, March 5, 2008, that Rollin Lee Spencer, a resident of Hoonah, was sentenced in federal court in Anchorage to 10 years in prison for his conviction for being a felon in possession of a firearm. His companion, Suzanne Denise Rollier, was sentenced to 33 months in prison for being an illegal alien in possession of a firearm.

Chief United States District Court Judge John W. Sedwick imposed the sentences on Spencer, age 56, and Rollier, age 52.

According to information presented to the court by Assistant United States Attorney Bryan Schroder, Spencer and Rollier moved to Hoonah on a boat in the fall of 2006. Spencer had recently been released from prison in Oregon where he served over seven years for child sexual assault. Spencer left Oregon without notifying authorities as required by the conditions of his parole and the state sexual offender registry. He also failed to notify the Alaska sex offender registry when he arrived in the state. Rollier is a Canadian citizen who was denied entry into the United States three times in the spring of 2006 for providing false information to officers at the border. During a dispute in Hoonah that came to the attention of law enforcement authorities, Spencer and Rollier were discovered to be in possession of a number of firearms, including two handguns Rollier obtained through a straw purchaser in Washington state. It is a violation of federal law for a felon to possess a firearm.

Prior to imposing sentence, Judge Sedwick noted Spencer's 30-year criminal history as one of the longest seen by the Court. Based on that history, and the nature of the offenses, Judge Sedwick found that Spencer was a serious danger to others, and found it necessary to "separate him from society for as long as I can." He then imposed the maximum penalty allowed by the statute, 10 years in prison.

Mr. Cohen stated that, "This is another excellent example of the intelligent collaboration between local, state and federal law enforcement authorities working together under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Program of the U.S. Attorney's Office. The citizens of Alaska are better off now that this gun-toting, child predator is serving the maximum sentence." In addition, Cohen commended the Project Safe Neighborhoods Task Force, including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Alaska State Troopers, as well as the Hoonah Police Department and the Hoonah Alaska State Troopers Post, for their investigation leading to the successful prosecution of Spencer and Rollier. Of special note was the work of Task Force Officer Gordon Bittner of the AST.

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